



Gearing Up For Your Transitions

Get Involved In Your Community

Be a Volunteer

There are a lot of ways a volunteer can get involved in the community where they live. Community service is a great way to meet new people, make a difference in your community, learn new skills and do something you care about. A lot of organizations in the community do events and need volunteers.

- You can make community service accessible to you! Your disability is not a barrier!
- Be Proactive! The website: www.volunteerdelaaware.org is a great place to look for opportunities to get involved in the State. You could also, get out there and talk to local community centers, churches, nonprofit organizations, synagogues and schools.
- Choose things that you are capable of doing!
- Don't be intimidated or afraid of letting anyone down because of your disability, just do whatever you can. Be clear with those you volunteer for about what you can and cannot do, so no one is disappointed in your efforts.
- Look for adaptive materials/technology, so you can help in new ways.
- Don't give up! If you can't help with something because you aren't capable of doing so, try to find new ways to help. If it turns out that you can't help because of your disability (and can't come up with adaptive ways to do something), don't be hurt, find something else to do, or another place to volunteer.
- Volunteering doesn't always mean helping out physically. If you can't do physical labor, help organize, be a guide, stuff envelopes, hand out flyers or do paperwork.
- Volunteer with other youth at a local recreation center or an event at your school.
- Be Confident!
- Work smart, and always remember you are volunteering to help others.

Delaware Volunteer Credit (DVC) for Students

The DVC was established by the Delaware General Assembly in 1998, allows students grades 9-12 to earn one elective credit towards graduation upon completing 90 hours of community service during two semesters. The semesters do not have to be consecutive or in the same calendar year. Hours must be performed outside the student's regularly scheduled school day. Volunteer hours completed as part of a service group requirement may also be used towards the Delaware Volunteer Credit. Volunteer activity cannot be political or advocacy in nature. Hours must be performed at a non-profit agency in Delaware. Service must be approved by the State Office of Volunteerism. Those not previously

approved will be contacted to research their ability to meet the criteria for the credit. For information contact Clare Garrison at 255-9899.

- [Delaware Volunteer Credit Flyer](#)
- [Delaware Volunteer Credit Information and Form Packet](#)
- [Delaware Volunteer Credit FAQs](#)

Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA)

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation, and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours of service over a 12-month period or cumulative hours earned over the course of a lifetime.

Volunteer Delaware is a certifying organization for the PVSA in Delaware. If you have any questions, please visit the FAQ page, or contact Clare Garrison at 255-9899.